POC 14 VIETS (1625)

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 UPW-01
IO-11 RSR-01 AID-20 /106 W
020257

P R 301530Z SEP 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0575
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USDEL FRANCE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Susan Szuba DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

9/30/71

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: THIEU CAMPAIGN ADDRESS SEPTEMBER 30

1. THE THIEU-HUONG-KHIEM "DEMOCRACY" SLATE MADE WHAT WAS BILLED AS ITS LAST APPEARANCE BEFORE THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTION IN A 45-MINUTE NATIONWIDE TELEVISION TALK SEPTEMBER 30. VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE TRAN VAN HUONG BEGAN THE PROGRAM BY APPEALING TO VOTERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND CONDEMNING THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE ELECTION. PRESIDENT THIEU FOLLOWED AND REPEATED MANY OF THE POINTS MADE IN HIS THREE PREVIOUS CAMPAIGN SPEECHES. HE ALSO ADDED ANOTHER CRITERION FOR DECIDING WHETHER THE PEOPLE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIM. IN ADDITION TO A MINIMUM 50-PERCENT VOTE FOR HIS SLATE, THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO REQUIRE A 50-PERCENT MOTER TURNOUT.

(1) 2. SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIEU'S SPEECH FOLLOW:

A. IF REELECTED, HE WILL DEVOTE HIS SECOND TERM TO OPPOSING THE COMMUNISTS AND BRINGING PEACE TO THE COUNTRY AS

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WELL AS TO THE NATION'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT.

B. THE ELECTION IS NOT A PERSONAL EXERCISE OF PRESIDENT THIEU BUT A NATIONAL EVENT CALLED FOR BY THE CONSTITUTION. IT HAS BEEN LEGALLY ORGANIZED, AND PEOPLE SHOULD VOTE--WHETHER "CONFIDENCE" OR "NO CONFIDENCE"--TO SHOW THE COMMUNISTS THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION.

C. TO CONSIDER HIMSELF REELECTED, PRESIDENT THIEU WILL REQUIRE A 50-PERCENT VOTER TURNOUT AS WELL AS A MINIMUM 50-PERCENT CONFIDENCE VOTE.

D. AS FOR THOSE OPPOSING THE HOLDING OF THE ELECTION, THE PRESIDENT SAID: "SABOTAGING THE ELECTION IS SABOTAGING THE NATION."

E. ALTHOUGH MENTIONING NO NAMES, HE DESCRIBED THE WITHDRAWAL OF OTHER CANDIDATES FROM THE ELECTION AS "IRRESPONSIBLE" AND CHIDED THEM FOR CALLING HIM A DICTATOR FOR GOING THROUGH WITH A ONE-MAN ELECTION, A CONDITION BROUGHT ABOUT BY THEIR WITHDRAWAL.

F. IF THE COMMUNISTS NOT WANT THIEU AS PRESIDENT, THEY SHOULD BREAK OFF THE WAR. THIEU REPEATED THAT IF PEACE COMES HE WILL SEEK THE PEOPLE'S PERMISSION TO RETIRE.
BUNKER

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